

RACE S Notes for 01/14/2009

News and Announcements

1) Upcoming Events:

- 01/31 MCU Training, Green Acres
- 2/20-21 – Yuma Hamfest

2) MCU Training – I would like to conduct a refresher training for the MCU on Saturday the 31 of January. This session will cover primarily initial setup and teardown. In late February I would like to conduct a second session that covers MCU operations including the various software packages

3) SAR Note – Most of you are familiar with the communications code 901 and its meaning. Due to an experience on a recent search the SAR team is adding four status codes. These four status codes and their meaning will be found in the MCU above the radio and in the email net notes this evening. They are not to be disseminated outside of our group.

- Status Code 1 – [see list in MCU]
- Status Code 2 – [see list in MCU]
- Status Code 3 – [see list in MCU]
- Status Code 4 – [see list in MCU]

Training – As a refresher tonight I would like to provide a list of duties and/or responsibilities of a RACE S operator at or during an incident.

First the lead communications operator or team chief.

- Determine who Incident Commander or Operations Officer is
- Obtain a mission briefing from the Incident Commander or Incident Operations Officer
- Determine RACE S communications personnel mission needs
- Advise Incident Command Staff on available RACE S communications capabilities
- Ensure the Incident Communications Center is established and communications plan implemented.
- Supervise RACE S communications activities
- Ensure a Mission/Communications Log (ICS 309) is maintained
- Ensure that all personnel are signed in on arrival at the scene and signed out upon departure.

All deployed RACE S operators.

First we will cover MCU specific functions and then general tasks:

MCU Specific:

- If you are assigned to the Mobile Communications Unit, assist in setting it up.
- Keep MCU and immediate operations area clear of unnecessary personnel not involved in official functions (Operators need to hear what is going on).
- Relay messages to and from Incident Command Staff as quickly as possible
- Keep track of deployed teams (e.g. SAR Teams) in/out times and welfare checks on the whiteboard current. Welfare checks on all deployed teams are done on an

hourly basis if you have not had contact with the team. That may be modified by the Incident Commander.

- Assist in issuing and maintaining accountability of MCU Hand-held personal radios.
- Assist in personal radio battery resupply and/or battery charging.
- Recover any checked out equipment from relieved or released units.
- Keep the Team Chief informed of important facts that come to light, especially if he/she has been out of MCU.
- Assist in the tear down procedures and stowing of equipment when the mission is complete.

General Tasks:

- Establish and maintain an accurate Communication Log (ICS 309) for the mission at the Incident Site or your assigned location. Document key events pertaining to the incident even if they are not pertinent to your location.
- Provide technical information as required regarding:
 - Adequacy of RACE S communications systems in operation
 - Geographic limitations on RACE S communication systems
 - RACE S equipment capabilities
 - Amount and types of RACE S equipment available to support mission
 - Anticipated problems in the use of RACE S communications equipment (Most likely terrain related, relocate, use taller antenna, etc)
- Remember to use the “READ BACK” procedure on all facts received from the field to ensure accuracy.
- Remember to tell the Team Chief if you are weak in a task area so that the team chief can provide additional assistance.
- If you feel overwhelmed or unsure of what you need to do, immediately advise the team chief. Do not wait. We all need help on some things.
- Maintain privacy of privileged communications and ensure all releases of information to the public concerning the incident are channeled through the Incident Command Public Information Officer.
- Assist in tearing down MCU or Blue Eagle location when mission is complete and properly securing all gear.

Home Unit Operators

- Maintain Communications Log (ICS 309) for key events
- Provide message relays as needed.
- Politely assist in keeping non-mission traffic moved to alternate channel/frequency
- Assist Communications Lead in developing a crew for subsequent shift if requested
- If you have the capability, such as using a scanner, monitor primary operations channel as well as the assigned amateur channel.
- As a neutral operator, provide the Communications Lead with feedback and input to After Action Report as how the missions “sounded” from an outside source.

Please remember that WE ARE A TEAM and it takes a TEAM (Training Experience Attitude Mentoring) effort to get any job done successfully.

That's it for training tonight, let's go down the net for comments.

Bob

Robert L Hollister

Thought for the day:

"If you wait to do everything until you're sure it's right, you'll probably never do much of anything."

Win Borden